

disagree and traverse at least with respect to method claims 60-80. Examiner's attention is directed to independent claim 1 (device claims) and independent claim 60 (method claim). By comparing these claims, it is seen that the process of claim 60 cannot be practiced just by any balloon catheter, or syringe or intravenous system. Quite to the contrary, claim 60 requires the provision of structure substantially corresponding to that in claim 1. Therefore, both device claim 1 and method claim 60, including their respective dependent claims, require only one search. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims shall be kept together in the present application without restriction.

Further, the Examiner requested that Applicants choose one of the four proposed species A, B, C, D. Applicants elect species A for prosecution at the present time. Upon election of species A, a further election of species was required between species 1-8 as indicated on page 4 of the Office Action.

Applicants elect species 5 – Figs. 16-17, however, Applicants explained to the Examiner that Figs. 18-28 should be included with Figs. 16-17 for immediate prosecution since these figures provide some additional details of the various features of Figs. 16-17. For example, Figs. 18A-D illustrate the details of an extrusion die used to extrude a cross-section of the multiple lumen access device shown in Figure 17. (See page 24 last full paragraph). Figs. 19-20 simply “illustrate in greater detail” the junction housing 402 shown in Fig. 16. (See page 23, line 6). Similarly, Figs. 21-22 show “in greater detail” the device valve insert 418 of Fig. 16. (See page 23, last paragraph). Figs. 25-28 show an alternative device valve insert 522 and an adapter 550 that “may be used for the exemplary multi-lumen access devices” shown in Fig. 16. (See page 28, sixth line from the bottom of the page). Figs. 23-24 show a strain relief insert 514 that could be used with the junction housing of the embodiment of Figs. 16-17. (See page 27). Therefore, Figs. 16-28 logically belong together and should not be separated.

Finally, it was discussed and agreed with the Examiner that Fig. 29-33 represent another embodiment of the present invention with a low profile junction housing and a device valve detachably attached to the junction housing through an extension tube. It was further discussed and agreed that all claims directed to the embodiments of Figs. 29-33 will be temporarily withdrawn from consideration with an understanding that if any generic claims are eventually allowed, the claims directed to Figs. 29-33 will be entitled to reinstatement.

To summarize, Applicants elect Figs. 16-28 for prosecution at the present time. Consistent with the election of Figs. 16-28, the following claims are readable thereon and shall remain in the application: 1-11, 17-18, 20-37, 60-70, 75-80. Claims 12-16, 19, 38-59 and 71-74 are withdrawn


from consideration at this time subject to reinstatement if a generic claim is allowed. Finally, claims 81-85 are cancelled without prejudice.

Since there are several claims that are temporarily withdrawn from consideration subject to the allowance of a generic claim, Applicants respectfully request to be permitted to amend inventorship in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b), if necessary, at a later time when it is known which claims eventually remain in the present application.

In light of the above election, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending application is ready for substantive examination. If any further questions or issues arise that could be resolved over the telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at 949-250-6856 at the Examiner's convenience.

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Respectfully submitted,



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